

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 5, and the amendments all find support in the as-filed specification. The claims presently pending in the application are 1-5, inclusive.

Applicant has amended the first sentence of the specification to make a claim for priority under 35 USC §120 based upon a previously filed co-pending application.

The rejection of claim 5 under §112, second paragraph, has been overcome in view of the amendment made thereto. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under §103 over Rice et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons set forth hereinafter.

Rice et al. disclose a method specifically designed for removing soluble zinc and soluble cyanide from blast furnace blowdown wastewater, whereas applicants' method claims the treatment of waste water from the metal mechanic industrial processes, as well as the polluted urban water which contain a large amount of organic matter.

In Rice et al., the blast furnace blowdown wastewater is first processed inside a reactor where sufficient soluble ferrous ion is added in the form of aqueous ferrous sulfate, aqueous ferrous chloride or other aqueous soluble ferrous salts to provide a concentration of ferrous ion of at least 250 to 400 ppm. The pH inside the reactor must be maintained below 7 in order to maintain all the ferrous ions in solution so they are available to break the zinc-cyanide complex.

In applicants' process, the waste water (influent) is discharged inside a regulating tank where ferrous chloride or acidic liquor (spent pickling liquor), are added in an amount of 400 to 2000 g. of ferrous chloride, per cubic meter of polluted water to be treated depending on the

pH of the waste water, and then the pH of the resultant water (effluent) is regulated between 5.5 to 9.5, preferably at 8.5, before it is discharged to a settling tank for its treatment.

In Rice process disclosed by Rice, the hydrochloric acid is used mainly for regulating the pH inside the reactor, while in applicants' method a lime slurry is used for the same purpose.

The ferrous ions employed in the Rice reference are used to break the zinc-cyanide complex, whereas in applicants' process the ferrous ion serves mainly to adsorb the organic matter (proteins, fatty, oil, carbohydrates, detergents) and in the formation of a clarifying flocculus, which is not even suggested by Rice.

In the process of Rice, the contaminants are precipitated in order to be filtered, or settled and separated from the treated water. It should be noted that the disclosed settling step does not accomplish any function.

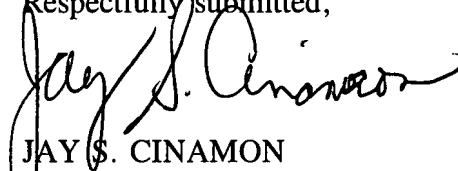
By contrast in applicants' process, the ferrous ion adsorbs organic matter and promotes the formation of a clarifying and purifying flocculus through which the effluent flow is passed in order to be filtered.

It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims distinguish over the Rice disclosure. Accordingly, the §103 rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn since a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

An annotated version of the claims is attached.

Please charge any fees which may be due herein to our deposit account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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